

WOMEN CANDIDATES CONDEMN AND PRAISE Hylan's RECORD ON THE SCHOOLS AND TENANT RELIEF

Miss Boswell Asks if Women Voters, in View of Present School Conditions, Can Afford to Trust Mayor With Four More Years of Power—Miss Mathews Credits Mayor With Saving Homes to Poor Renters.

By Helen Varick Boswell.

If every woman voter would but form a composite mental picture of the public schools of New York City as they actually are and then compare this picture with a composite picture of the schools as they ought to be, there would be no question as to how she would vote on Nov. 8.

Take for example Public School No. 51, at Tenth Avenue and West 44th Street. Except for a coat of paint practically nothing has been done to this building for twenty years. The atmosphere of this school is indescribably depressing. The plaster is peeling off the walls. The closed-in yard is not only small and dark, but it is unspeakably dirty and foul smelling. And what makes the condition all the more deplorable is that this is a poor neighborhood, where instead of counteracting a similar atmosphere in the homes of many of the children, it only accentuates this atmosphere.

You women voters who for years have been interested in the effects of environment, what do you think of New York City's treatment of its future citizens? Is it possible in such schools as this for the children of the foreign born to get a true vision of America?

Sixty-one schools in New York City have been examined by a non-political teachers' organization and have been found to be in most unsanitary condition, according to a report just issued by this organization. In general these schools externally were found to be more "down at the heels" than any of the structures surrounding them. Windows were dirty and in some instances broken. Chalk decorations disfigured the walls. Everywhere there was a lack of paint and varnish. There was as well a lack of water for washrooms, a lack of soap, a lack of other conveniences for cleanliness. Methods of dusting and sweeping were found to be antiquated and dangerous to health.

Compare the conditions that actually exist in the public schools of New York City to-day with the conditions that must exist if New York City is to do its duty by its children. Something must be done about the schools. For the last four years the school buildings throughout the city have steadily deteriorated. Considering what the Hylan-Hearst-Murphy combination has failed to do in the last four years, can it be trusted, if given a chance, in the next four years? I think not.

The candidates with whom I am associated on the Coalition ticket have pledged that they will work for the improvement of the schools. Their records prove them to be men who keep their pledges.

By Annie Mathews.

It is a simple thing, apparently, for partisan opponents of the Hylan Administration to find fault with the excellent manner in which it has met and overcome the difficulties confronting it by reason of the extraordinary conditions it had to face during a great part of its existence. It is not so easy for them, though, to give credit where credit is due; to acknowledge frankly that the present Administration has been successful in coping with the many problems which arose as a direct result of war times.

Chief among these problems was the housing shortage and the rent problem. During the war all labor was concentrated upon war industries, with a consequent prevention for three years of the normal building of houses and apartments. The result was intolerable—the demand for living quarters far exceeded the supply. Rents soared to the skies; profiteers ran rampant; the poorer classes suffered most and there was wholesale dissatisfaction and discontent. The first demands for increased rents were made, as is usually the case, upon those who were least able to meet and bear the burden. The Mayor recognized the dangers of this situation and the hardships which were bound to follow. He ordered the committee which he had previously appointed to investigate into the evils of tax lien sales in neighboring counties and mortgage loan renewals in the city, to give their attention to the housing and rent problems which were already becoming serious. Out of the investigations by the committee grew the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, formed April 11, 1918, and still actively engaged in protecting tenants from rapacious landlords and unprincipled agents.

This committee has investigated thousands of cases; its representatives have appeared in every court on behalf of groups of tenants; efforts have been made at conciliation; thousands of homes have been saved for tenants who were unable to pay the higher rents demanded and who were unable to find other quarters. When the problems of how to cope with the rent profiteers became too

vast for the committee, its representative, by order of the Mayor, appeared at the hearing held in the Assembly Chamber at Albany and as a result the rent laws of 1920 were passed.

The work of the Mayor's Committee is too vast to be disposed of in this one short article. The vast numbers of tenants who have been helped is the best indorsement of the committee's worth and of the success of its work, which is due almost entirely to the efforts of Mayor Hylan and which is the clearest possible indication of the efficient manner in which he and his co-workers are meeting the extraordinary problems which have confronted them.

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